

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus comprising first and second components having respective first and second mechanical coupling elements that cooperate to allow relative movement of the first and second components, wherein each of the first and second mechanical coupling elements provides a corresponding signal coupling means and the signal coupling means cooperate to enable wireless coupling of a signal from one of the first and second components to the other of the first and second components.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each signal coupling means comprises at least two signal coupling elements with each signal coupling element provided by the first mechanical coupling element forming a signal coupler with a corresponding one of the coupling elements provided by the second mechanical coupling element.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the signal coupling means are incorporated in the mechanical coupling.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each signal coupling means is carried by or forms part of the corresponding mechanical coupling element.

5. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of the first and second components has data providing means for communicating data to the other of the first and second components via the wireless coupling provided by the first and second coupling means.

6. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein at least one of the first and second components has signal supplying means coupled to the signal

coupling means for supplying a signal to be coupled to the other of the first and second components via the wireless coupling and at least one of the first and second components is arranged to communicate data to the other by modulating that signal.

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7. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of the first and second components has power deriving means for deriving a power supply for that component from a signal coupled to that component from the other component via the wireless coupling.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the power deriving means comprises rectifying means.

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9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the power deriving means comprises rectifying means and charge storage means.

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10. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the signal coupling means comprise electrical signal coupling means providing at least one of a capacitive and an inductive wireless coupling.

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11. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the degree of coupling between the signal coupling means varies with the relative positions and/or orientations of the first and second components and determining means are provided for determining the degree of coupling to determine information relating to the relative positions and/or orientations of the first and second components.

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12. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the first and second mechanical coupling elements define at least one of a rotatable and a slidable coupling.

13. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the first and second mechanical coupling elements provide coaxial parts of a hinge.

14. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the first and second mechanical coupling elements define a ball and socket arrangement.

15. An apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the first and second mechanical coupling elements provide a sliding mechanical coupling allowing relative sliding between the first and second components.

16. A apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the relative positions and/or orientations of the first and second components are fixed once the mechanical coupling is made

17. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the first and second components are sub-systems or sub-assemblies

18. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the second component is a display device.

19. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, in the form of a laptop, PDA, video display unit, video camera, or a GPS system.

20. A portable device in the form of apparatus in accordance with any of the preceding claims.

21. A method of wirelessly coupling a signal from a first component to a second component that is mechanically coupled to the first component to allow movement of at least one of the first and second components relative to the other, the method comprising wirelessly coupling the signal from the first component to

the second component via the mechanical coupling of the first and second components.